

under Public Land Order 898 which withdrew 56,011 acres of public land for military use. In 1986—P.L. 99-606—and 1999—P.L. 106-65—Congress enacted legislation on this general subject by withdrawing additional public lands for military activities. The law passed in 1999 was especially noteworthy. This law represented a major change to the local customs, culture, and economy because it withdrew approximately 201,933 acres of land for military use for 20 years. The Fallon Range Training Complex now encompasses more than 230,000 acres of public land because of numerous map revisions and land surveys by the BLM since 1999. These land withdrawals, which took effect on November 6, 2001, expire on November 5, 2021, absent congressional reauthorization.

While this history is important, it is also important to understand that the history in this area did not begin when the military became an integral part of the community. One such example is the Walker River Paiute Tribe, a federally recognized sovereign nation. One range, Bravo 19, of the larger Fallon Range Training Complex, is located directly adjacent to WRPT reservation land and the Navy, as far back as 1942, has conducted military testing and training on lands adjacent to the WRPT reservation. The National Congress of American Indians—NCAI—go into more detail on the close physical proximity between these entities in Resolution No. ECWS-19004. The NCAI notes that the Walker River Paiute reservation land is “south and adjacent to Bravo 19, which is one of the training areas for Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon” and that the “Navy has encumbered tribal land (est. 6,000 acres), which has been contaminated with live ordnance, caused historical damage to range wells and facilities and has left such land useless as this land cannot be totally cleaned up of ordnance and bombs.”

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe has an equally important mark on the history of this unique area in northern Nevada. As detailed by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada in Resolution 06-ITCN-19, the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe is federally recognized and have lived, hunted, and prayed on their ancestral lands which encompass many significant areas in this region of the Silver State. This has resulted in a range of issues for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, including, but not limited to, access to traditional lands, including spiritual and cultural sites. These impacts are not trivial to the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, but it should be noted that the current Chairman of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Len George, published a piece in their March 2020 Tribal newsletter expressing his support for reauthorization of the existing withdrawn lands, but not for the expansion as proposed by the Navy.

The broader community in and around NAS Fallon also has a long his-

tory with this military base. Churchill County and the city of Fallon are the proud home of NAS Fallon, and both want to remain the proud home of NAS Fallon. That being said, this military base and training range is only one part of a larger community which each have to work together to balance its activities on public land against a range of other interrelated activities such as agriculture, clean energy development, hunting, outdoor recreation, and mining.

Given these factors, it is easy to understand the amount of attention the Department of Navy received in August of 2016 when it published its notice in the Federal Register that it was initiating its process under the National Environmental Policy Act to “assess the potential environmental consequences of maintaining and modernizing the Fallon Range Training Complex (FRTC) in Nevada, which would include land range expansion through additional land withdrawal and land acquisition, airspace modifications, and public land withdrawal renewal.” Scoping meetings drew hundreds of attendees, and the Navy’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement resulted in the submission of nearly 1,500 unique comments. Unfortunately, the robust scoping meetings and good-faith efforts to work together ultimately has not fully resolved some of the fundamental issues with the Navy’s proposal. The shortcomings of this process have been apparent and was captured in 2018 by our former and our current Governor in letters sent to the Navy in December 2018 and November 2019. Since then, the Navy has undertaken a serious effort to understand local concerns through a series of ongoing discussions and pledged commitments.

The National Environmental Policy Act process was subsequently completed in March of 2020 with a signed Record of Decision from the Navy. The Navy’s ROD proposes an expansion that includes approximately 600,000 acres of public land and approximately 66,000 acres of private land located primarily in Churchill County, but affecting a total of five counties. When considering associated airspace modifications, the Navy’s proposal will affect over half of all Nevada counties. While affected counties, Tribes, and State agencies worked with the Navy to identify key assurances in the ROD, which reflected the Navy’s serious engagement, the ROD could not and did not alleviate all concerns.

Shortly before the Navy made their decision in March of 2020, Senator ROSEN, Congressman HORSFORD, and I wrote a letter to the Senate and House Armed Services Committees where we noted that the lack of consensus left us with “no choice other than to initiate our own process to gather input from as many of our constituents as possible.”

With regards to both sections of the National Defense Authorization Act, we continue to seek that consensus,

and I would note in particular that Governor Sisolak and his administration have been helpful with this effort, especially in working with affected counties and the Nevada Association of Counties to bring State agencies, local governments, and Tribes together. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Churchill County which also worked with the State and the aforementioned stakeholders to collaboratively compile a list of outstanding concerns and suggested means of addressing those concerns with the Navy’s proposal. The combined efforts from stakeholders in our State has been an invaluable resource.

In the meantime, I appreciate that this bill does not attempt to force a solution upon the Silver State which has virtually no support from my constituents. Rather, by authorizing new 20-year extensions of the public land withdrawals, it removes uncertainty by reinforcing the critical mission of the U.S. military in Nevada and its efforts to modernize while enabling Federal, State, local, and Tribal stakeholders to continue their dialogue to find the right way forward.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her leadership on this matter and share her commitment to working together with our constituents in Nevada to reach a consensus proposal. While critical concerns remain, Nevada’s congressional delegation has a long history of finding pragmatic solutions to public land challenges, and I look forward to working with Senator CORTEZ MASTO, Congressman AMODEI, and the rest of the delegation to continue this tradition.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for her partnership.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 451. An act to repeal the requirement to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to clarify acceptable 9-1-1 obligations or expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3798. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on co-payments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 4983. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gilbert, Arizona, as the "Staff Sergeant Alexander W. Conrad Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7105. An act to provide flexibility for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a retraining assistance program for unemployed veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 7347. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as the "Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE FROM WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

On request by Senator DUCKWORTH, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Commerce: Gregory Autry, of California, to be Chief Financial Officer, vice Jeffrey DeWitt.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5561. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Brucellosis and Bovine Tuberculosis: Importation of Cattle and Bison" (RIN0579-AD65) (Docket No. APHIS-2011-0044) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5562. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking Administration Actions Pending Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Processing" (RIN0584-AE63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5563. A communication from the Deputy Administrator for Policy Support, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: 2008 Farm Bill Provisions on Clarification of Split Issuance; Accrual of Benefits and Definition Changes" (RIN0584-AE02) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5564. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Final Rule; Designation of Isle of Shoals North as an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site for the Southern Maine, New Hampshire, and Northern Massachusetts Coastal Region" (FRL No. 10014-99-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5565. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Updates to 40 CFR Part 52 for Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date" (FRL No. 10013-72-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5566. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (20-1.5e)" (FRL No. 10013-34-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5567. A communication from the Branch Chief, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest in Alaska; Harvest Regulations for Migratory Birds in Alaska during the 2020 Season" (RIN1018-BE24) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5568. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Maine; Midcoast Area and Portland Second 10-Year Limited Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS" (FRL No. 10014-81-Region 1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5569. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; West Virginia; 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standard Second Maintenance Plan for the West Virginia Portion of the Parkersburg-Marietta, West Virginia-Ohio Area Comprising Wood County" (FRL No. 10014-80-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5570. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Environmental Protection Agency Acquisition Regulation (EPAAR)" (FRL No. 10012-65-OMS) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 23, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5571. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, three (3) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Justice, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on September 21, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 4462. A bill to establish a national integrated flood information system within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-269).

By Mr. HOEVEN, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2912. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take certain land located in Pinal County, Arizona, into trust for the benefit of the Gila River Indian Community, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-270).

S. 3948. A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 116-271).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. UDALL:

S. 4681. A bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. UDALL (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4682. A bill to provide grants for local care corps programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4683. A bill to designate the Battleship IOWA Museum, located in Los Angeles, California, as the National Museum of the Surface Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARASSO):

S. 4684. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 440 Arapahoe Street in Thermopolis, Wyoming, as the "Robert L. Brown Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 4685. A bill to prohibit assistance to foreign governments that violate human rights with respect to religious freedom; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4686. A bill to recognize the refugee and immigrant communities from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam including the Hmong, Cham, Cambodian, Iu-Mien, Khmu, Lao, Montagnard, and Vietnamese Americans who supported and defended the Armed Forces during the conflict in Southeast Asia, authorize assistance to support activities relating to clearance of unexploded ordnance and other explosive remnants of war, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4687. A bill to expand domestic content requirements for certain shipboard components, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN):